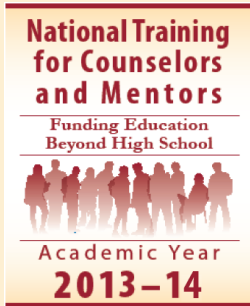


Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid



Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid

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Agenda

- Undocumented students
- Federal financial aid
- State aid
- Other aid sources
- Counseling undocumented students

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Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid

What Does It Mean to be Undocumented?

- Individual lacks the documents required for immigration or legal residence
- Individuals may have:
 - Entered the country legally on a temporary basis and stayed after documents expired
 - Entered without documents
 - Been brought into the country by someone else

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Statistics about Undocumented Immigrants

- 75% are from Mexico and Latin America
- The majority live in six states: California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Florida, and Arizona
- Other areas have seen significant growth in undocumented residents in past 10-15 years

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Statistics about Undocumented Students

- 1.1 million are children under 18
- Another four million children are U.S. citizens by birth
- Approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools every year

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Undocumented Parents

- Parents' undocumented status usually does not affect student's eligibility to apply for certain types of aid
- Eligibility depends on student's status

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Federal Aid

To be eligible for federal aid, students must be:

- U.S. citizens or nationals;
- U.S. permanent residents;
- Citizens of the Freely Associated States (Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands); or
- Other eligible noncitizens

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Categories of Eligible Noncitizens

- Persons granted asylum
- Persons paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Refugees
- Victims of human trafficking
- Battered immigrants-qualified aliens and their designated children
- Conditional entrants
- Cuban-Haitian entrants

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Eligible Noncitizens

- Can often document their status with an I-94, or Arrival-Departure Record
- Can usually apply for permanent residency after specified time period, such as one year

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Ineligible Immigration Statuses

- Family unity status
- Temporary residents
- Non-immigrant visas for work, students, tourists, and foreign government officials

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Student Options for Federal Aid

May need to refer undocumented students to an attorney familiar with immigration law and regulations about the feasibility of student obtaining permanent status in the U.S.

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State Legislation

Beginning in 2001, a number of states have passed legislation that allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities

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States that have Enacted Legislation Granting In-State Tuition

- California
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Maryland
- Connecticut

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States that have Enacted Legislation Prohibiting In-State Tuition

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Georgia

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Eligibility Criteria for In-State Tuition

- Attend a state high school for two to four years
- Complete a high school diploma or GED in state
- Enroll in a public postsecondary institution
- File affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become permanent resident

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State Models for Undocumented Student Eligibility

- Redefine residency for the purpose of tuition charges
- Make exemptions for payment of out-of-state tuition for certain categories of students

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Aid from Colleges and Universities

- Institutional scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study programs
- Availability of institutional aid varies widely
- Scholarship funds come with a merit component

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Aid from Private Sources

- Fast Web
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Get Ready for College
- Latino College Dollars
- Scholarships for Hispanics
- Genesco Migrant Center

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Be Proactive with Private Aid

- Locating private aid sources is labor intensive and time consuming
- Be proactive and identify local sources of aid
- Make information easily available
- Good project for student assistants or local organization

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Counseling Undocumented Students

Safe environment

- Non-threatening
- Not required to report status
- Be supportive

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Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid

Counseling Resources

- Be proactive
- Be aware of what is available at state and local level
- Include the student's family in counseling

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Questions



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